

**EDUCATION & ADULT PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**February 15, 2007**

**I. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Gary Polulak  
Jennie Tunnell  
John Bozymowski

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

George Kovtun  
Mike Moran

**OTHERS PRESENT**

John Bierbusse  
Marsha Prose  
Linda McLatcher

Ms. Tunnell called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 18, 2007 EDUCATION & ADULT PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**GARY POLULAK MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 18, 2007 AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY JOHN BOZYMOWSKI. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**III. WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT**

**a. Recommendation to Approve Public Policy Associates for BRAC Contract**

The board initially received a \$125,000 grant in June to address the concerns regarding the Army Garrison closure at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. The plan indicated hiring a consultant firm to obtain information on individual needs and the effect on the local economy. Approximately 270 civilian employees will be affected but it was reported that only 29 people attended an orientation. It is hoped that a full-time consultant will be able to obtain better results. Therefore, a request for proposal was written to secure consultant services to perform an environmental scan assessing the impact of current and future dislocation events in the region; to assess the impact of the closure; to survey needs of displaced individuals; and to develop goals, objectives and strategies transitioning workers into training or employment. The RFP was released at the end of December to 25 potential proposers resulting with two (2) responses. Economic Modeling Specialist, Inc of Moscow, Idaho submitted an excellent proposal indicating their familiarity with the process having worked with other closures but staff felt the distance was too great. The second proposal came from Public Policy Associates of Lansing, Michigan and was also excellent. However, staff felt their familiarity with Michigan an asset along with their ability to assist on the impact of the auto industry. This initiative is on a very fast track with the scan due date of May 15th.

After review and discussion, **JOHN BOZYMOWSKI MOVED TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO PUBLIC POLICY ASSOCIATES OF LANSING MICHIGAN AS PRESENTED AND TO FORWARD TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FINAL APPROVAL; SUPPORT BY GARY POLULAK. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**b. Informational Items**

**i. Plant Closures**

Members reviewed closures of two businesses. TI Automotive in Chesterfield Township notified the State of a mid-March closure. The company performs tooling and machine repair. There are 22 employees affected and all are highly skilled machine and electrical control panel builders. Outplacement services are being conducted by Outplacement Projects, Inc. A

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worker orientation was held in early February with 16 attending.

Collins & Aikman is closing a facility in Sterling Heights in March affecting 350 hourly and 50 salaried employees. They anticipate laying off the first 150 employees at the end of March with remaining employees leaving at the end of June or early July. The company is represented by UAW Local 155 and their primary customer is DaimlerChrysler. A worker orientation will be held in mid-March.

**IV. WORK FIRST**

**a. Recommendation to Approve Work First - Reed Act Plan**

Ms. Prose reported receipt of \$122,909 of Reed Act carry-in funds from the 2005 allocation. These dollars will be incorporated into the FY'07 plan for direct services to support staff costs of contractors.

After review and discussion, **JOHN BOZYMOWSKI MOVED TO APPROVE THE FY'07 WORK FIRST - REED ACT PLAN AND TO FORWARD TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FINAL APPROVAL; SUPPORT BY GARY POLULAK. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**b. JET Update**

The JET program is a redesign of the Work First program. Marsha Prose presented a newsletter prepared for staff which discusses training of all the various partners. The program is scheduled to begin March 19<sup>th</sup>.

**V. SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM UPDATE**

This program provides training and employment opportunities to economically disadvantaged individuals age 55 or older with priority going to those age 60 or beyond. The emphasis is to transition those participants into unsubsidized employment.

Members reviewed a handout reflecting the levels of participants both projected and enrolled in the Senior Community program. Of the 76 projected participants, to date 99 slots have been filled with 21 exiting the program. The placement goal is 24% with actual data showing placement has reached 6.5%. Mr. Bierbusse expects this number to increase.

**VI. MICHIGAN PRISONER RE-ENTRY INITIATIVE (MPRI)**

**a. Macomb County Update**

The Macomb County program began in October, 2005 allowing staff to measure the effectiveness of the program. Of the 212 participants, Mr. Bierbusse noted that 17% have been returned to the prison system. The coordinator for the project was replaced. The new coordinator is the former assistant warden of the 26 Mile Road facility. Services provided include such things as housing; clothing; bus passes; mental health services; mentoring; and workforce development assistance.

**b. St Clair County Update**

The St. Clair County initiative began October, 2006. Minimal information is available at this time. However, 17 parolees have applied for Department of Human Services assistance; 5 parolees have been placed in housing; 14 are working with an employment specialist; 6 are active in training; and 3 have obtained full-time employment.

**c. Thumb Area Expansion**

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The Department of Corrections has requested that our organization provide services to prisoners in the Thumb Area of the state and will use the St. Clair County initiative as a model. Additional resources will be added to the program to include these new participants.

**VII. CAREER ADVANCEMENT ACCOUNTS**

Mr. Bierbusse discussed the Career Advancement Account demonstration project designed to provide training to advance individuals, employers and the state's economic development efforts. The federal government has awarded Michigan with \$1.5 million which must be matched by state funds. We are one of nine areas within the state selected to host the program.

The program allows \$3,000 to individuals seeking employment and training activities but if awarded, the individual foregoes any WIA funding. State MWA directors are uncomfortable with the program and concerned that WIA benefits may be overlooked by applicants who might otherwise benefit from using WIA funds which are able to cover training costs beyond the \$3,000 cap of the CAA program. They have asked the State to resubmit the proposal to Washington and redirect funding to incumbent workers. The proposal must be submitted by February 22<sup>nd</sup>. A March 1<sup>st</sup> start date is anticipated.

Members will be kept updated on the progress of this initiative.

**VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 15, 2007. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Carne  
Recording Secretary